

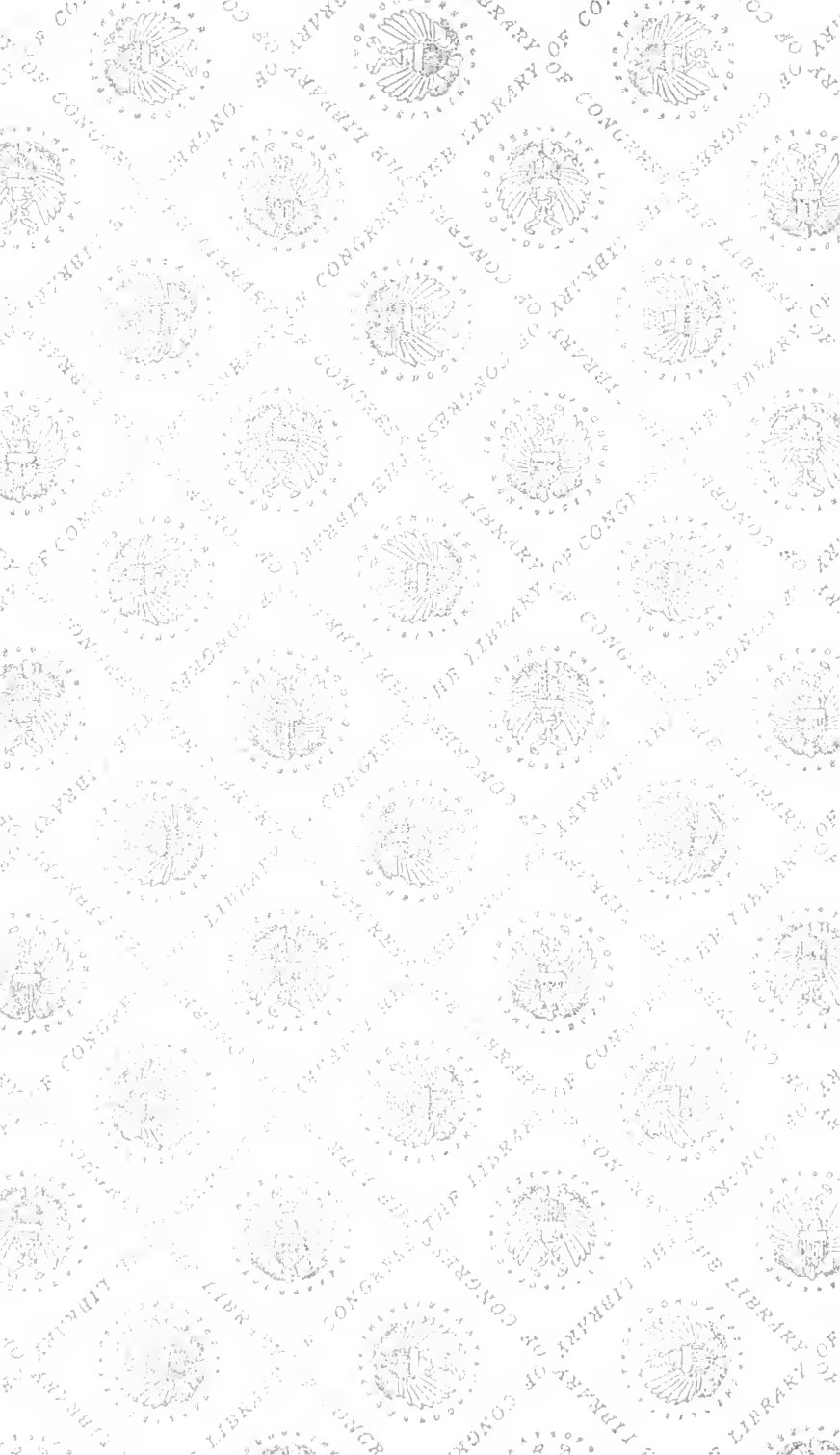
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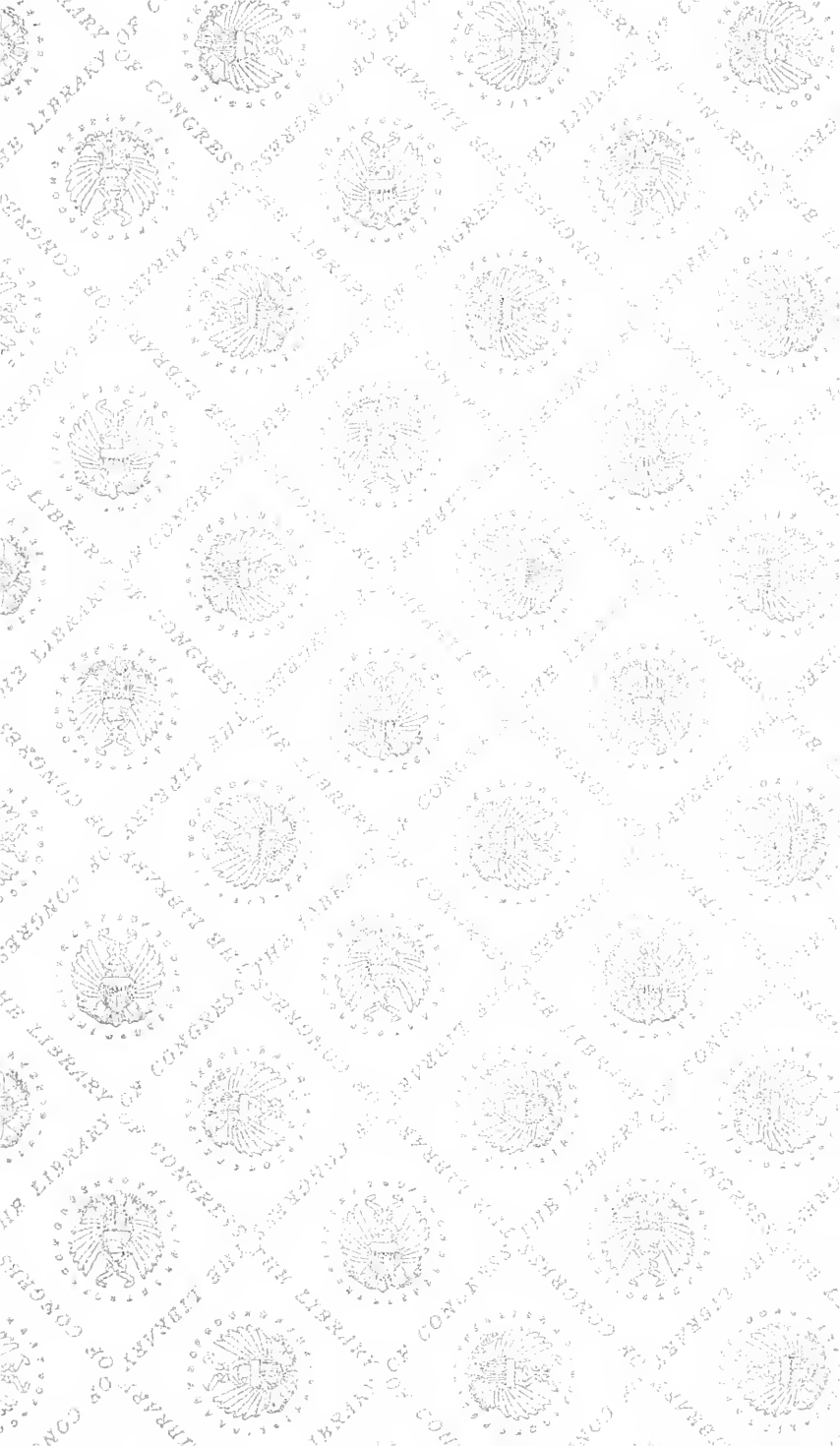
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ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC,
BY THE
MANAGERS
OF THE
COLONIZATION SOCIETY
OF
CONNECTICUT.

With an Appendix.

NEW-HAVEN :

PRINTED BY TREADWAY AND ADAMS.

1828.

AN

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

BY THE

Managers of the Colonization Society

OF

CONNECTICUT.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

WESLEY

NEW-HAVEN :

PRINTED BY TREADWAY AND ADAMS.

1828

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

ELECTED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 6, 1828

HIS EXCELLENCY GIDEON TOMLINSON, *President.*

HON. JOHN T. PETERS, Hartford,
PROF. BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, Yale Coll. } *Vice Presidents*

REV. LEONARD BACON, New-Haven, *Secretary.*

SETH TERRY, Esq., Hartford, *Treasurer.*

HIS HON. JOHN S. PETERS, Hebron,	} <i>Managers.</i>
HON. EBENEZER YOUNG, Killingly,	
REV. JOEL H. LINSLEY, Hartford,	
REV. SAMUEL MERWIN, New-Haven,	
RT. REV. T. C. BROWNELL, Wash. Coll.	
REV. T. H. GALLAUDET, Hartford,	
HON. SETH P. BEERS, Litchfield,	}
HON. JOHN ALSOP, Middletown,	
HON. RALPH I. INGERSOLL, New-Haven,	}

1828
1829

ADDRESS.



To the People of Connecticut.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS,

IN behalf of the Colonization Society of the State of Connecticut, we beg leave to address you on a subject intimately connected with the honor and the dearest interests of our common country, and identified with the great cause of human happiness.

You are often called upon to lend your influence to schemes of patriotic enterprise and Christian benevolence. The elastic spirit of our age has long been busy here and has been moving you to effort. You have founded and are sustaining noble institutions of education. You have engaged in the work of sending the Scriptures into every family. You have long been contributing to impart the means of instruction to the ignorant and destitute. You have not held back from the enterprise of giving to Pagan tribes the blessed influences of the gospel. The spirit which has prompted you to effort aims at doing good to all within its reach;—it finds none too degraded for its beneficence, none too distant for its sympathy. It seeks to perpetuate and to brighten that bright legacy of character and of privileges which has come down to us from sainted ancestors. It seeks to scatter every where the seeds of social improvement and of spiritual life. It seems to forget none of the children of degradation, or of intellectual and moral want. To the Pagan and the Mahomedan—to the degraded and abject in our cities—to the inmates of the manufactories rising along the streams of our New England—to the settler on the prairies of the far Southwest—to the boatmen of our mighty rivers—to the sailor on the

ery can do any thing for him, education and property can do as little for his children after him. Would you set before him the importance of a good character? But of how much value is character to him who stands now, and must always stand in the lowest order of society? It is this degradation of the condition of our free coloured population which ensures their degradation of character, and their degradation of character reacts to make their condition still more degraded. They constitute a class by themselves—a class out of which no individual can be elevated, and below which, none can be depressed. And this is the difficulty, the invariable and insuperable difficulty in the way of every scheme for their benefit. Much can be done for them—much has been done; but still they are, and in this country always must be a depressed and abject race.

2. Another principle, in which the friends of the Colonization Society have been united from the beginning is, that *the improvement and ultimate abolition of slavery must be brought about by a moral influence only, and must be done by the people of the slave-holding states themselves, of their own will.* There is indeed another way in which slavery may at some time or other be abolished—a mode of abolition at the thought of which the heart sickens and the imagination revolts in horror; but that is the very catastrophe which the promoters of this undertaking were anxiously aiming to avert. But how in this country *can* slavery be abolished, if not by violence and insurrection. By Legislation? The strong hand of an Imperial Parliament is indeed introducing the reform of slavery and preparing its gradual suppression in the British Colonies; but the circumstances of the slave-holding States in this confederacy, preclude the thought of any such interference here. The Legislatures of the States where slavery does not exist have no more to do with the laws and social institutions of the States where it does exist, than they have to do with the military and ecclesiastical establishments of the European kingdoms. The National Government has no control over the subject, for the right of the slave-holder to his property is guaranteed by the very compact on which the National Government rests for its existence. The Legislature of each slave-holding State can Legislate only for its own constituents. Those Legislatures are only the servants of the people; and when the people of those States demand the abolition of slavery, then slavery will be abolished and not till then.

3. A third point in which the first promoters of this object were united, is, that *few individual slave-holders can in the present state of things, emancipate their slaves if they would.* There is a certain relation between the proprietor of slaves and the beings thus thrown upon him, which is far more complicated and far less easily dissolved than a mind unacquainted with the subject

is ready to imagine. The relation is one which, where it exists, grows out of the very structure of society, and for the existence of which the master is ordinarily as little accountable as the slave. It is a relation, like the relation of parent and child, or master and apprentice, involving reciprocal duties—on the one hand protection and support, and on the other hand obedience. It is an arbitrary relation in that it does not result from the necessary condition of human nature but rather from an artificial and unnatural organization of society; and yet it is not arbitrary in any sense which implies that it depends for its existence, or its continuance on the consent of the parties. You may go to a slaveholder and propose to him to emancipate his slaves. You may set before him all the evils of slavery in the most vivid colours. You may make him feel those evils as strongly as you feel them. But what shall he do? Perhaps the laws of the State forbid emancipation as an act which goes only to swell the amount of pauperism, and wretchedness, and crime. But supposing there is no legal obstacle in the way; what shall he do? Here are a hundred human beings dependent on him for protection, and support, and government, and he, on the other hand, is dependent on their services for the means of supporting himself and them. This relation he did not voluntarily assume; he was born the proprietor of these slaves, just as really as he was born the subject of civil government. It is his duty, a duty which he cannot avoid, to make the best provision in his power for their sustenance and comfort. It is proposed to him to emancipate them. He looks around him and sees that the condition of the great mass of emancipated Africans is one in comparison with which the condition of his slaves is enviable;—and he is convinced that if he withdraws from his slaves, his authority, his support, his protection, and leaves them to shift for themselves; he turns them out to be vagabonds, and paupers, and felons, and to find in the work-house, and the penitentiary the home which they ought to have retained on his paternal acres. This is no unreal case. There may be slaves—there are slaves by thousands and tens of thousands—whose condition is that of the most abject distress; but these are the slaves of masters whose whole conduct is a constant violation of duty, and with whom the suggestion of giving freedom to their slaves would not be harbored for a moment. The case which we have supposed is the case of a master really desirous to benefit his slaves. Hundreds of humane and Christian slave-holders retain their fellow-men in bondage because they are convinced that they can do no better.

The simple object of the American Colonization Society is to plant Colonies of free blacks from the United States upon the coast of Africa. This object they have been pursuing for eleven years, and they are now more fully convinced than ever that the

accomplishment of this object will be attended with the best results, both as it respects the improvement of the character and condition of the free blacks, and as respects the gradual and safe abolition of slavery.

What such Colonies are to do for the free blacks it is not difficult to understand. Here the black man is degraded. You may call him free, you may protect his rights by legislation, you may invoke the spirit of humanity and of Christian benevolence to bless him, but still he is degraded. A thousand malignant influences around him are conspiring to wither all that is manly and noble in his nature. But in Africa he becomes a member of a community in which he is not only free but equal. There he stands up to be a man. There he has a home for himself, and for his children after him. There as he looks about him on a soil of unrivalled and almost incredible fertility, on the dark forest already beginning to fall at the approach of civilization, on the varieties of mountain and valley and stream, already known by names dear to freedom and benevolence, on all the magnificence and luxuriance of that tropical land, he can feel that there is his home, the land of his fathers, the refuge of the exile, and that there his children through succeeding ages shall enjoy a rich and noble inheritance. There he finds himself moved to industrious and honorable, and virtuous enterprize, by all the motives that inspire and quicken the freemen of our own New-England. Every man of colour who removes from the United States to our African Colonies, removes from a land of degradation, from a land where his soul is crushed and withered by the constant sense of inferiority, to a land where he may enjoy all the attributes of manhood and all the happiness of freedom.

The successful establishment of these colonies will not only bless the colonists themselves but will react to elevate the standing of those who remain behind. From beyond the Atlantic there will come a light to beam upon the degradation of the negro. Let it be known among the coloured population of this country what Africa is, and what advantages it offers to the emigrant; and soon the self same spirit which now lands thousands of suffering Irishmen every year upon our shores, will be yearly landing thousands of our free blacks upon the shores of Africa.

What effect the execution of this scheme is to have on the progressive abolition of slavery in our country may be easily shown.

1. In the first place, *it will give to many benevolent masters an opportunity for the safe and happy emancipation of their slaves.* This scheme solves the dilemma in which many a humane and Christian slave holder has found himself. It shows him how he can free his slaves, and at the same time free himself

from the responsibility of holding them in bondage, and at the same time secure the permanent improvement of their condition. Already has many a benevolent holder of slaves availed himself of the opening which is thus presented. In the State of North Carolina the entire community of Quakers have emancipated their slaves and by their own contributions have provided for their emigration to more favorable climes.

2. In the second place, the prosecution of this scheme *will excite discussion and will fix public attention on this great national interest.* Attention, discussion is what this subject needs. We need attention and discussion—not declamation aiming at no good result—not the invectives of heated politicians—but calm, serious, kind investigation, leading the nation to estimate the extent and nature of the evil more exactly, and seeking out the remedies by which it may be alleviated and subdued. To this result the scheme is even now most obviously tending. What has already been done in the way of freeing and transporting slaves has sent a thrill through the hearts of thousands. And every new example of this kind, as it awakens new applause will act on public opinion with a wider and more powerful influence. Good men and patriotic men in the slaveholding States will be led to examine the subject anew; they will see it in new relations, they will regard it with new emotions. Thus the public mind will be gradually enlightened, and public opinion will be renovated.

3. In the third place, the successful prosecution of this plan *will soon make the abolition of slavery through the world a thing inevitable.* Slavery will never exist in any community much longer than it can be rendered profitable to the slave-holder. The reason why slavery was never successfully introduced into New-England, and the reason why it is already nearly abolished in the middle States, is principally the absolute impossibility of sustaining it. It is an established and now a familiar principle that the labor of slaves is far more expensive and far less productive than the labor of freemen. The labor of one freeman is equal in value to the labor of three slaves. Consequently the product of free labor can everywhere be sold at a far lower rate than the same articles produced by slave-labor. If the slaveholders of Maryland and Virginia could have a monopoly of wheat and tobacco they could make their system of slavery profitable. But the fact is that slavery in those States is unprofitable, and is felt to be a burthen, and is therefore growing unpopular. And the reason of that fact is, that they have not and never can have the monopoly which they need. The products of their slave labor come into competition with the products of free labor. And while the price of wheat and tobacco is pouring back wealth on the farmers of New-York and Ohio.

Virginia producing the same articles is growing poor and complains of constant stagnation. And if the farmers of New-York and Ohio could raise cotton and sugar and coffee and indigo, as they raise wheat, slavery all the world over would be as intolerable a burthen as it is in Virginia; and all the world over it would be gradually working out its own abolition, and dying by inches. Slavery is sustained now only by the monopoly which it enjoys.

But let this enterprise be successfully pursued, and a few years hence, the fertile soil of Africa will be cultivated by the hands of freemen. Then there will be no monopoly on which slavery can be sustained; and the universal abolition of slavery will be not far distant. Then it will fall, not by violence, not by sudden commotion, but by the power of public opinion, convinced that it is a burthen too heavy to be sustained, and calling on the wisdom and the power of legislation to effect the gradual and safe but sure removal of the curse.

There are other results connected with the success of our enterprise to which we might call your attention. We might tell of the slave trade still raging with unabated horror, save where its suppression has been effected by the Colonies of Liberia and Sierra Leone. We might tell you of a continent covered with barbarism, and on which no light of civilization or of Christianity has ever shined. But it is enough to name such considerations as these. We need not surpass the limits of this appeal to show in detail how the prosecution of our enterprise will put a speedy and perpetual end to all those horrors which have so long roused the indignation of the world in vain. Nor need we tell how from our Colonies the light will spread; like the morning on the mountains, when summit after summit, and valley after valley catches the sunbeam. Your thoughts glance forward to the time when Africa, so long darkened, and defiled, and wretched, shall be redeemed from its miseries and washed from its pollutions, and shall be filled with the light and blessings of the gospel.

In this enterprise, friends and fellow citizens, you are invited to co-operate. And it is urged upon your notice not as a newly projected scheme of gigantic yet uncertain results, but as a scheme already tried, and at this hour in successful operation. It is now eleven years since the experiment was undertaken. Then every thing was uncertain. It was uncertain how many would be found to favor the undertaking in its infancy. It was uncertain whether a suitable territory could be purchased. It was uncertain whether a sufficient number of Colonists could be found willing and qualified to make a beginning. It was uncertain whether savage tribes, or the combined power of the slave traders ever hovering over that devoted coast, or the diseases of that burning climate, might not sweep away the settlers at the outset.

and utterly defeat the enterprise. Then there were few who had that prophetic scope of judgment, or that deep and inspiring enthusiasm of benevolence which could endure such disheartening anticipations as seemed inseparable from the project. Then it was no wonder that the people of New England, knowing little of the nature, and feeling nothing of the direct pressure of that flood of evils for which an outlet was to be provided, looked on the scheme with comparative apathy and incredulity. But the time for apathy or incredulity, the time for doubt or backwardness is past.

During the first five years there was little to encourage the promoters of this object and much to create despondency. From the inexperience of their Agents in Africa, from the treachery of native proprietors with whom they were compelled to negotiate for territory, from the diseases of the country, and from the assaults of savage enemies, they suffered multiplied calamities. And at home there were obstacles hardly less discouraging. By some whose favor they had anticipated with confidence, the entire project was scouted as chimerical. By others every appeal of theirs was received with indifference. By others their motives were misunderstood, and their expectations misconstrued. The friends of abolition opposed them because they did not go far enough, and charged them with a design to perpetuate the evils which they hoped to remedy. The friends of slavery hated them because they went too far, and charged them with a rashness of philanthropy that was to be the ruin of their country. But for the past six years a kind Providence has been pleased to smile on the undertaking. The Society is now in possession of a Territory extending one hundred and fifty miles on the sea coast. The Colony consists of more than twelve hundred souls. It is defended by fortifications sufficient to repel any probable attack. It is under the immediate direction of a man,* who, by six years of arduous and successful effort, has given the most abundant proof of his competency for the work, and of his devotion to the noble enterprise. It is enjoying all the blessings of a government republican in spirit, well regulated, and wisely administered. It has under its jurisdiction eight several stations by means of which it maintains an extensive commerce with the natives. Its principal town, which bears the venerated name of the late Chief Magistrate of this nation, is a thriving commercial village, whose port is 'rarely clear of European and American shipping.' The institutions of religion are planted there; houses are erected for the worship of the Living God; and on the bold promontory of Monrovia, the white spire, pointing to the heavens, stands a beautiful monument of the triumph of the gospel in that land of blood and darkness. Every child in the Colony enjoys the advantages of

schools, for the support of which the settlers in addition to what the Society has done, contribute by voluntary subscription eleven hundred dollars annually. Not only are the institutions of religion and education enjoyed, but their influence is seen in the order, peace, industry, contentment and happiness of the community. The light of civilization and religion is gradually spreading among the savage tribes of the vicinity. Missionaries from the Baptist churches of this country, have for years been stationed at the Colony. Others from the Protestant Episcopal Society, and from the American Board of Foreign Missions, have been appointed to that work and are soon to embark. And even the Lutheran church of Germany and Switzerland has directed its evangelical efforts to Liberia, as affording the best means of access to heathen Africa; and intelligence has just been received that two missionaries well qualified and amply furnished for their work, have already arrived, as pioneers of a much larger force expected soon to follow. In a word a civilized Christian Colony—the germ of a nation—has been planted on the coast of Africa, and is already diffusing light through its benighted regions.

Such success gives palpable demonstration that the scheme is something more than a chimera. The consequence is that the undertaking is daily exciting more and more attention, is becoming better understood, and is enlisting in greater numbers warm and devoted friends. It is awaking a deep and earnest interest throughout our land; and, especially in the slave-holding States it is fixing public attention and eliciting inquiry and discussion on that great national interest, the remedy and ultimate removal of the evils connected with the condition of our coloured population. Already has it been agitated, and soon will it be thoroughly discussed in the halls of our national legislature.

The Colonization Society of the State of Connecticut, in behalf of which we now address you, was organized in the hope of concentrating and heightening that interest in this noble undertaking which is known to exist among the people of this State. A year has just elapsed since the formation of the Society was announced to the public. The managers had hoped by the employment of some competent agent to bring the subject in detail before the minds of their fellow citizens. That hope has been hitherto disappointed, but is not yet finally relinquished. Meanwhile we bring before you, for your candid consideration, the summary statements contained in this address. And as our Treasurer's account for the last year shows that without a word of solicitation, and without any direct effort on our part, two hundred dollars have been thrown into the treasury, we are the more encouraged to hope that this appeal to your patriotism and your Christian feeling will not be made in vain.

We ask you to bestow on this subject a fair and thorough investigation. And that you may know fully what has been accomplished, and what is now going on we beg leave to commend to your special notice the publications of the National Society. We are bold to say that no man whose mind is open to conviction can read the annual Reports and the Monthly Magazine of that society—so full of the most striking and unanswerable facts—without becoming interested even to enthusiasm.

We ask you to use your influence towards forming in this community a correct and vigorous and active public opinion respecting the claims of Africa. We ask you to use your influence in your several spheres, towards rousing inquiry and diffusing information on this great subject. Who that understands the merits of this enterprise may not in this way lend it an efficient patronage? Who may not in this way contribute something towards forming that strong current of public opinion which will by and by direct the application of the *national* resources for the fulfilment of this national design?

We ask your contributions. A subscriber of thirty dollars at one time becomes a member for life of the National Society. The payment of ten dollars at one time, or of one dollar annually is the condition of membership in this auxiliary. How many men are there in Connecticut who might, without material inconvenience to themselves, and without subtracting any thing from their ordinary charities, constitute themselves life members of the parent institution? How many more who might with equal ease become either annual or life subscribers to the Connecticut Society? How many ministers of every denomination might be constituted members of the National or State Society, by the benefactions of their people? In which of our towns or villages might not the exertions of a few spirited individuals secure a public contribution to this great national object, on the anniversary of our independence? There are in this State one hundred and twenty-nine incorporated towns. If the average amount of only thirty dollars could be raised annually among the citizens of each of these towns, it would send nearly four thousand dollars every year to diminish the yearly increasing pressure of the greatest curse which rests upon this nation, and to build up the institutions of freedom and intelligence and piety on a continent over which darkness and misery have brooded for uncounted generations.

We trust that this appeal, brief and imperfect as it is, will not be in vain. For we address a community famed for its intelligence, and controlled by feelings of unquestionable benevolence. We bring before you one of the most momentous interests of the country which we all love. We bring before you the wants

of two millions of fellow men, existing on our native soil, and yet not fellow citizens—two millions of the human population of this country degraded to the dust, notwithstanding the boasted institutions of our freedom. We bring before you the horrors of the yet unabolished slave-trade, and the misery of fifty millions of the pagan inhabitants of Africa. We bring before you the claims of a little Christian settlement just planted on a barbarous shore, at the expense of toil and suffering almost incredible, and by a patient and persevering fortitude which honors human nature. Such interests, such wants and claims as these, you are not wont to treat with apathy. We pray you to remember these things. As you look round on your hills resounding with the song of the husbandman, your cities filled with the fruits of enterprise and industry, your homes of peace and purity, your churches, your schools, your thousand noble institutions; forget not, we pray you, the poor African in the midst of us, the slave or the freeman scarcely happier than the slave, surrounded by all these blessings, yet having no inheritance in them; and forget not the misery of that land whose coast has been half depopulated by the cruelties of Christian and American slave-traders, and whose tribes are sunk under the complicated wretchedness of barbarism and superstition and endless savage warfare. And especially on the return of our national festival, when its thousand notes of gratulation are pealing on your ears, and you think how many millions of your fellow citizens are shouting their joy, or bowing with grateful devotion at the altars of their God,—then, as you look backward to the insignificant beginnings of this empire and forward to the great results which time is now so rapidly revealing, we pray you to remember that three thousand miles away, upon the coast of Africa, that day is celebrated by a colony of freemen with a joy as deep and rational as yours; and then, under the influence of such associations determine what *you* will do to alleviate the evils which a degraded coloured population of two millions is inflicting on our country, and to spread our language, our institutions, our freedom, our religion, over another continent.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

—116—

1827.	Cash collected July 4, Mo. Concert, Hartford	
July 25.	Centre and North societies, by C. Goodwin	\$15 37
	Do. do. Farmington, by Edward Hooker, Esq.	27 41
	Do. do. E. Windsor, N. Society	10 25
Aug. 10.	Do. do. Manchester, 1st Society, by Deacon Talcott	11 17
" 14.	Do. From Hebron 1st Society, by Rev. Lyman Strong	6 55
" 24.	Do. From Mr. Abel Brown, Canton	1
" 23.	Do. do. Vernon 1st. Society, by Mr. C. Pinney	13 76
Sept. 3.	Do. do. Hartford South Soc., by Rev. Mr. Linsley	10
" 8	Do. do. Salisbury 1st. Society, by Rev. Mr. Lathrop	8 25
" 12	Do. do. Derby 1st Society, by Rev. Mr. Swift	5 50
" "	Do. do. From Mr. Hawley Olmsted, for Repository two years	4
" 15	Do. do. Watertown, individuals, by the Rev. Mr. Hotchkiss	7
" 17	Do. do. E. Windsor 1st Soc., by Rev. Mr. Robbins	8 50
" 23	Do. do. Somers 1st Soc., by Rev. Mr. Strong	14 42½
Oct. 17.	Do. do. Hebron, Gilead Soc., by Rev. Mr. Nichols	3 28
Nov. 3.	Do. do. Franklin, by Rev. Mr. Nott	2 68
1828.		
Feb. 27.	Do. do. Farmington 3d Soc., by Rev. Mr. Kellogg	5 56
April 8.	Do. do. Bolton, individuals, by Mrs. Abigail Parmele, to constitute Rev. Lavius Hyde a member of the Am. Col. Soc. for life	30
	Do. do. Subscribers \$1 each	12
May 3.	Do. do. From Richmond Mass., contribution July 4, by Rev. Mr. Bacon	16 31
	Do. do. From Milford Con., contribution July 4, by Rev. Mr. Bacon	10 30
	Expenses,	223 25½
		3 40
	Balance to new account.	219 35½

SETH TERRY, *Treasurer.*

Hartford, May 3d, A. D. 1828.

APPENDIX.



The following documents are subjoined as affording a minute and authentic view of the actual state of the African colony.

Address of the Colonists to the Free People of Colour in the U. S.

At a numerous meeting of the citizens of Monrovia, held at the Court-House on the 27th day of August, 1827, for the purpose of considering the expediency of uniting in an address to the coloured people of the United States, JOHN H. FOLKS, Esquire, in the chair—It was

Resolved, That a committee of four persons be appointed, to frame a circular address to be published in the United States, for a better information of the people of colour in that country respecting the state of this Colony, and the condition of the settlers—and

That Captains James B. Barbour and F. Devany, W. L. Weaver, Esq. and the Rev. C. M. Waring and George R. McGill, be the committee to prepare, and report the said address, on Tuesday the 4th day of September next.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 1827.

The forenamed committee reported the following address, which was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the United States, and there published for the information of the coloured people of that country.

(CIRCULAR.)

As much speculation and uncertainty continues to prevail among the people of colour in the United States, respecting our situation and prospects in Africa; and many misrepresentations have been put in circulation there, of a nature slanderous to *us*, and in their effects injurious to *them*; we feel it our duty by a true statement of our circumstances, to endeavour to correct them.

The first consideration which caused our voluntary removal to this country, and the object which we still regard with the deepest concern, is liberty—liberty, in the sober, simple, but complete sense of the word—not a licentious liberty—nor a liberty without government—or which should place us without the restraint of salutary laws. But that liberty of speech, action, and conscience, which distinguishes the free enfranchised citizens of a free state. We did not enjoy that freedom in our native country: and, from causes, which, as respects ourselves, we shall soon forget forever, we were certain it was not there attain-

ble for ourselves or our children. This, then, being the first object of our pursuit in coming to Africa, is probably the first subject on which you will ask for information. And we must truly declare to you, that our expectations and hopes in this respect, have been realized. Our Constitution secures to us, so far as our condition allows, "all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of the U. States:" and these rights and these privileges are ours. We are proprietors of the soil we live on; and possess the rights of freeholders. Our suffrages, and, what is of more importance, our sentiments and our opinions have their due weight in the government we live under.—Our laws are altogether our own: they grew out of our circumstances; are framed for our exclusive benefit, and administered either by officers of our own appointment, or such as possess our confidence. We have a judiciary, chosen from among ourselves; we serve as jurors in the trial of others: and are liable to be tried only by juries of our fellow citizens, ourselves. We have all that is meant by *liberty of conscience*. The time and mode of worshipping God, as prescribed us in his word, and dictated by our conscience, we are not only free to follow, but are protected in following.

Forming a community of our own, in the land of our forefathers: having the commerce and soil and resources of the country at our disposal; we know nothing of that debasing inferiority with which our very colour stamped us in America: there is nothing here to create the feeling on our part—nothing to cherish the feeling of superiority in the minds of foreigners who visit us. It is this moral emancipation—this liberation of the mind from worse than iron fetters, that repays us, ten thousand times over, for all that it has cost us, and makes us grateful to God and our American patrons for the happy change which has taken place in our situation. We are not so self-complacent as to rest satisfied with our improvement, either as regards our minds or our circumstances. We do not expect to remain stationary. Far from it. But we certainly feel ourselves for the first time, in a state to improve either to any purpose. The burden is gone from our shoulders: we now breathe and move freely—and know not (in surveying your present state) for which to pity you most, the empty name of liberty, which you endeavour to content yourselves with in a country that is not yours; or the delusion which makes you hope for ampler privileges in that country hereafter. Tell us; which is the white man, who, with a prudent regard to his own character, can associate with one of you on terms of equality? Ask us, which is the white man who would decline such association with one of our number whose intellectual and moral qualities are not an objection? To both these questions we unhesitatingly make the same answer:—There is no such white man.

We solicit none of you to emigrate to this country; for we know not who among you prefers rational independence, and the honest respect of his fellow men, to that mental sloth and careless poverty, which you already possess, and your children will inherit after you in America. But if your views and aspirations rise a degree higher—if your minds are not as servile as your present condition—we can decide the question at once; and with confidence say, that you will bless the day, and your children after you, when you determined to become citizens of Liberia.

But we do not hold this language on the blessing of liberty. for the

purpose of consoling ourselves for the sacrifice of health, or the suffering of want, in consequence of our removal to Africa. We enjoy health after a few months' residence in the country, as uniformly, and in as perfect a degree, as we possessed that blessing in our native country. And a distressing scarcity of provisions or any of the comforts of life, has for the last two years been entirely unknown, even to the poorest persons in this community. On these points there are, and have been, much misconception, and some malicious misrepresentations in the United States.

We have nearly all suffered from sickness, and of the earliest emigrants, a large proportion fell in the arduous attempt to lay the foundation of the Colony. But are they the only persons whose lives have been lost in the cause of human liberty, or sacrificed to the welfare of their fellow men? Several out of every ship's company, have within the last four years been carried off by sickness, caused by the change of climate. And death occasionally takes a victim from our number, without any regard at all to the time of his residence in this country. But we never hoped by leaving America, to escape the common lot of mortals—the necessity of death, to which the just appointment of Heaven consigns us. But we do expect to live as long, and pass this life with as little sickness as yourselves. The true character of the African climate is not well understood in other countries. Its inhabitants are as robust, as healthy, as long lived, to say the least, as those of any other country. Nothing like an epidemic has ever appeared in this Colony; nor can we learn from the natives, that the calamity of a sweeping sickness ever yet visited this part of the continent. But the change from a temperate to a tropical country is a great one—too great not to affect the health more or less—and in the cases of old people and very young children, it often causes death. In the early years of the Colony, want of good houses, the great fatigues, and dangers of the settlers, their irregular mode of living, and the hardships and discouragements they met with, greatly helped the other causes of sickness, which prevailed to an alarming extent, and was attended with great mortality. But we look back to those times as to a season of trial long past, and nearly forgotten. Our houses and circumstances are now comfortable—and, for the last two or three years, not one person in forty from the middle and southern States has died from the change of climate. The disastrous fate of the company of settlers who came out from Boston in the Brig Vine eighteen months ago, is an exception to the common lot of emigrants: and the causes of it ought to be explained.—Those people left a cold region in the coldest part of winter, and arrived here in the hottest season of our year. Many of them were too old to have survived long in any country. They most imprudently neglected the prescriptions of our very successful physician, the Rev. Lot Carey, who has great experience and great skill in the fevers of the country—and depended on medicines brought with them, which could not fail to prove injurious. And in consequence of all those unfortunate circumstances, their sufferings were severe; and many died. But we are not apprehensive that a similar calamity will befall any future emigrants, except under similar disadvantages.

People now arriving, have comfortable houses to receive them; will enjoy the regular attendance of a physician in the slight sickness that may await them: will be surrounded and attended by healthy and

happy people, who have borne the effects of the climate, who will encourage and fortify them against that despondency, which alone, has carried off several in the first years of the Colony.

But you may say, that even health and freedom, as good as they are, are still dearly paid for, when they cost you the common comforts of life, and expose your wives and children to famine and all the evils of want and poverty. We do not dispute the soundness of this conclusion neither—but we utterly deny that it has any application to the people of Liberia.

Away with all the false notions that are circulating about the barrenness of this country—they are the observations of such ignorant or designing men, as injure both it and you. A more fertile soil, and a more productive country, so far as it is cultivated, there is not, we believe, on the face of the earth.—Its hills and its plains, are covered with a verdure which never fades; the productions of nature keep on in their growth through all the seasons of the year. Even the natives of the country, almost without farming tools, without skill, and with very little labour, make more grain and vegetables than they can consume, and often more than they can sell.

Cattle, swine, fowls, ducks, goats and sheep, thrive without feeding, and require no other care than to keep them from straying.—Cotton, coffee, indigo and the sugar-cane, are all the spontaneous growth of our forests; and may be cultivated, at pleasure, to any extent, by such as are disposed. The same may be said of rice, indian corn, millet, and too many species of fruits and vegetables to be enumerated. Add to all this, we have no dreary winter here, for one half of the year to consume the productions of the other half. Nature is constantly renewing herself—and constantly pouring her treasures all the year round, into the laps of the industrious. We could say on this subject more, but we are afraid of exciting too highly the hopes of the imprudent. Such persons we think will do well to keep their rented cellars, and earn their twenty-five cents a day, at the wheel-barrow, in the commercial towns of America; and stay where they are. It is only the industrious and virtuous that we can point to independence and plenty, and happiness in this country. Such people are nearly sure to attain, in a very few years, to a style of comfortable living, which they may in vain hope for in the United States. And however short we come of this character ourselves, it is only a due acknowledgment of the bounty of Divine Providence, to say, that we generally enjoy the good things of this life to our entire satisfaction.

Our trade and commerce is chiefly confined to the coast, to the interior parts of the continent, and to foreign vessels. It is already valuable and fast increasing. It is carried on in the productions of the country, consisting of rice, palm oil, ivory, tortoise shell, dye woods, gold, hides, wax, and a small amount of coffee; and it brings us in return, the products and manufactures of the four quarters of the world. Seldom, indeed, is our harbour clear of European and American shipping; and the bustle and thronging of our streets, show something, already, of the activity of the smaller seaports of the United States.

Mechanics of nearly every trade are carrying on their various occupations—their wages are high, and a large number would be sure of constant and profitable employment.

Not a child, or youth in the Colony, but is provided with an appro-

prate school. We have a numerous public Library and a Court-House, Meeting-Houses, School-Houses and fortifications sufficient, or nearly so, for the Colony in its present state.

Our houses are constructed of the same materials, and finished in the same style as in the towns of America. We have abundance of good building stone, shells for lime, and clay of an excellent quality for bricks. Timber is plentiful of various kinds, and fit for all the different purposes of building and fencing.

Truly we have a goodly heritage; and if there is any thing lacking in the character or condition of the people of this Colony, it never can be charged to the account of the country: it must be the fruit of our own mismanagement or slothfulness, or vices. But from these evils we confide in Him, to whom we are indebted for all our blessings, to preserve us. It is the topic of our weekly and daily thanksgiving to Almighty God, both in public and in private, and he knows with what sincerity,—that we were ever conducted by his providence to this shore. Such great favors in so short a time, and mixed with so few trials, are to be ascribed to nothing but his special blessing. This we acknowledge. We only want the gratitude which such signal favours call for. Nor are we willing to close this paper without adding a heartfelt testimonial of the deep obligations we owe to our American patrons—and best earthly benefactors; whose wisdom pointed us to this home of our nation; and whose active and persevering benevolence enabled us to reach it. Judge then of the feelings with which we hear the motives and the doings of the Colonization Society traduced—and that, too, by men too ignorant to know what that Society has accomplished; too weak to look through its plans and intentions; or too dishonest to acknowledge either. But, without pretending to any prophetic sagacity, we can certainly predict to that Society, the ultimate triumph of their hopes and labours; and disappointment and defeat to all who oppose them. Men may theorize, and speculate about their plans in America, but there can be no speculation here. The cheerful abodes of civilization and happiness which are scattered over this verdant mountain, the flourishing settlements which are spreading around it—the sound of Christian instruction, and scenes of Christian worship, which are heard and seen in this land of brooding pagan darkness—a thousand contented freemen united in founding a new Christian Empire, happy themselves, and the instruments of happiness to others: every object, every individual, is an argument, is demonstration, of the wisdom and the goodness of the plan of Colonization.

Where is the argument that shall refute facts like these?—And where is the man hardy enough to deny them?



Extracts from the last published communication of Mr. Ashmun to the Board of Managers.

Caldwell, November 28, 1827.

The established state of the Colony—a treasure of past experience—the confirmed health of the settlers—our better knowledge of materials for every useful work—and a path trodden smooth by use, begin, now.

as the fruit of perseverance in the unfavorable circumstances of former years, to requite in a fuller measure, the labor, and expense bestowed on the improvements of the Colony. Every month adds to it some new acquisitions, discloses some new resources—or produces some new valuable improvements.

The dry season is but just settled. Four new decked schooners have, however, been already built, fitted for sea, and actually gone abroad under the flag of the Colony. Three more of the same description, all new, will follow in a very few weeks—and these exclusive of three more decked vessels, and a variety of open coasting craft before in use. Most of these vessels have been wholly built at Monrovia, of country materials, except iron, copper, pitch, and cordage.

We have the present year succeeded in introducing cows into the Colony from the interior. Formerly they were prohibited, and male cattle only suffered to be sent to market. It is but a few months ago, that the Colony had no others, except the produce of a cow brought from Sierra Leone in 1822. We have now, in all, 14, and begin to get milk in considerable plenty. Monrovia has a butchering establishment, which slaughters never less than two bullocks weekly—sometimes four, and even more, when beef is in demand. We have a path open, about 120 miles towards the Northeast; by which we receive as many bullocks, as we choose to order.

There is one team of small but good oxen in use; and several others are now breaking in—and will shortly be serviceable. And we have at length succeeded in possessing ourselves of that invaluable animal, the horse. Francis Devany deserves the credit of introducing the first, a vigorous steed, a few weeks since. Several others, are now ordered. The path from the interior direct to the Colony, by which horses will hereafter be brought into it, is at present too difficult to allow them to pass. While on this subject, permit me to enumerate the different species of domestic animals and products, rearing, and which, we have reason to expect, will ever hereafter be had in the Colony, in the greatest plenty. If not—it is certainly not the fault either of climate, seasons, or soil—but must be wholly chargeable on the indolence of the settlers.

Of Animals, &c. We have, (now,) *Horses, Cattle in abundance, Sheep, Goats in abundance, fowls, ducks, geese, Guinea fowls, swine* in plenty.—*Fish*, are no where found in greater quantities. *Asses*, are lately introduced. *Fruits*, are, *Plantains, Bananas*, (reges frugum) in endless abundance—*Limes, Lemons, Tamarinds, Oranges, Soursop, Cashew, Mangoe*—20 varieties of the *Prune—Guava, Papaw, Pine-apple, Grape, tropical Peach and Cherry*.

Vegetables, are, *Sweet Potatoe*, easily made and the crop abundant—*Cassada*, the chief edible root of the country, grows almost without culture—*Yams*, not so easily made, but a better vegetable, beginning to be plenty—*Cocoa*, a root easily grown, and nearly equal to the Yam. *Ground-nuts*, sowed often in Rice-fields, very prolific—*Arrow-Root*, easily made, nutritious, but best for sale—*Egg-plant*, grows, once planted, without culture, very prolific—*Oca*—every variety of *Beans*, and most sorts of *Peas—Cucumbers*, indigenous—*Pumpkins*, the several varieties succeed well.

Grains, are, *Rice*, the staple; several crops by way of experiment the past season; it is a sure crop, but requires assiduous care.—*Indian*

Corn, does not succeed well, there is something unfriendly in either soil, or climate; supposed to be the too great heat of the latter. *Coffee*, of an excellent quality, and abundantly sufficient for the wants of the Colony. *Pepper*, of three varieties, of which either is equal to the Cayenne. *Millet* and *Guinea Corn*, easily raised, but little cultivated. Their place is supplied by the rice of the country.

Cotton is not yet cultivated, except on a small scale—staple good.

With the pardon of the Board, while on these minutiae, I will here add a sketch of the inside economy of this little community.

The older classes of settlers, fixed in comfortable dwellings, and surrounded with their little cultured premises, are variously, and in general, successfully and actively employed in the coasting commerce, and the country trade; either through the factories, or at home. To this they add, as a source of profit, their transactions with trading vessels—and several of them, the exercise of their mechanical trades. Most of the mechanics of long standing, have from four to ten or twelve apprentices and journeymen working under them. To the same class is restricted, in the first instance, the benefit of nearly all the public money expended in the Colony—whether in the payment of salaries, job work, or building materials. They are now beginning to add both to their comfort and their independence, by agriculture. Belonging to this class of settlers, is to be found, nearly all the trading capital, and much the greatest proportion of the whole wealth of the Colony. And it comprehends a large half of its entire population.

A second class (estimated at one third of the population) have, after an exhausting effort, just placed themselves in their new—some, even not yet quite finished—houses; and are completing with great zeal and solicitude, the improvements on which the titles of their lands depend. Many, having large families to support, while thus burdened with the severe labour of subduing a piece of forest land, and erecting houses, and very few bringing with them a spare dollar, feel the pressure of their circumstances, at this period, more sensibly than at any other perhaps in their lives. Earlier, they received a little weekly aid—(and a little, in an industrious and thrifty family, goes a long way,) from the public store. Later, they will have emerged into a state of comparative independence and ease—having houses over their heads, a title to their lands in their pocket, cleared and cultivated enclosures about them, and generally a healthier habit of body from a longer residence in the climate. But at the stage I speak of, settlers are in want of all these comforts and helps—and obliged by their incessant exertions, to create them all. Many of this class live, slenderly fed, slenderly clad, and not seldom, while the pressure lasts, indulge despondency; and some of them even complain, that for ideal privileges, they have abandoned many substantial comforts, in America. If mechanics, they spend nearly all their earnings in purchasing building materials—and in carpenters', masons', and labourers' hire, about their own houses. If simple farmers, or common labourers, it costs them two days' labour in every week for their more opulent neighbours, or the public, to get provisions for themselves and families; two days more to pay for such building materials and clothing as they cannot make for themselves; and the remaining two days they spend on their buildings and lands. This is nearly the proportionate distribution of their industry, taking a month or season together. Some who have credit, go in debt at this

stage of their residence in the Colony, and thus protract their embarrassments a couple of years longer. I do what I can to sustain a resolution in this emergency—encourage special industry, or merit struggling with too many difficulties at once, by a little seasonable relief—give them the refusal of certain little jobs, and contracts which promise to pay them best—and, to their credit be it said, few are found ungrateful; and few but acquit themselves in this season, with much credit; and, as the reward of their perseverance, look forward, in a few months, to an easy and respectable establishment in the Colony.

The third class consists of settlers not a twelvemonth in the Colony. Most of these are yet in the Public Receptacles, and in rented houses. Imperfectly inured to the climate, they are incapable of severe labour—receive (for the early part of the period under consideration,) a little rice, tobacco, &c. from the public store, weekly—labour moderately, either on their own lots, and in preparing shingles, &c. for their future houses, hire themselves, as journeymen, or labourers, to the older settlers, or employ themselves in preparing lumber, lime, stones, &c. &c. for sale.

To these may be joined a fourth class, not quite useless to the Colony—but altogether so to themselves. Men and women of too little forecast to see a month into the future, or care for any part of their lives except the present hour. They lose their lands, because they never feel the necessity of taking measures to secure them, till it is too late. They never build houses, because a house can, *for the present month*, be *hired* much cheaper than they can build one. All the incurably lazy of the Colony, ofcourse, muster in this class, but not a few, from a blind and constitutional improvidence, are referred to it, who labour hard the year round, but know not how to use their industry for their own benefit.

The truth compels me to say, that the sources of trade and commerce naturally belonging to the Colony, placed as it is on the central part of a coast of vast extent, and bordering on populous and industrious nations in the interior of the continent, are not a tenth part explored: and until they shall be both explored and occupied, and so long as this vast field of commercial enterprise holds out new inducements to the settlers, to enter upon and cultivate it: is agriculture destined to follow in the train of trade, and not to lead it. Then, and not till then, is it likely that the tide of industry will shift its direction, and be made to set very strongly towards any other object. In the meantime it has been my invariable practice to hold out all possible encouragements, to the enterprise and perseverance of the farmers. The premiums authorized to be proposed for this end, by the Board of Managers, the last year, have to a certain extent, been beneficial. The survey on which the first annual award of these premiums is to be made, is now accomplishing. But, as it was made a condition of carrying the several premiums, that the competitors should not only excel *others*, in the several crops, &c. but should *deserve* them, for the absolute value of those crops, and by the style of their work, as well as its relative quantity, I am apprehensive that not more than \$50, out of the \$200, will be, this year awarded at all. But the competition has proved useful, and promises much better effects the ensuing year. All the practical farmers of Caldwell, (and most of the *inhabitants* are of this number,) are associated into an Agricultural Society. They meet weekly for the purpose of reporting, individually, the progress they have made in the week, on their plantations. These reports are recorded. Two, three or more

Certain fatigue services, and much drudgery connected with the defence of the Colony, there is to be done—and as this duty requires nothing but a pair of able hands, it is divided in the shape of a labour-tax amongst all the settlers. But the duty of bearing arms, and of enrolment in the serviceable militia of the Colony, is left to the public spirit of the people. And I am pleased to be able to state, that there are but about half a dozen able-bodied men, not specially exempted, who are not, *by voluntary enrolment*, members of an uniformed corps.

The oldest of these companies, is Captain Barbour's Light Infantry—composed of select young men, completely armed and equipt, highly disciplined (relatively)—and consisting of about *forty* men. Uniform, light blue, faced with white.

The next, in age, is Captain Davis's, (Caldwell,) heavy Infantry. Uniform, white with blue bars—well armed and accoutred, and indifferently well disciplined. It has, at the present moment, fewer men than the Light Infantry, but will during the ensuing season become the larger company.

The third is a company of Light Artillery, Monrovia, composed of select young men—completely uniformed and equipt, and having been lately organized on the new principle, consists of only about thirty men. But, as this corps is exceedingly popular, it must very rapidly increase for some time to come. Capt. Devany is the present commander of the corps. Its uniform, deep blue with red facings.

The fourth corps is also a newly organized Artillery company, commanded by Captain Prout—and belongs to Caldwell. Its number is nearly equal to Captain Devany's.

No. 5. is properly a detachment of twenty Guards, under Lt. Johnson; enlisted, or drafted for one year from the body of the citizens, for the exclusive purpose of manning Fort Norris battery. These guards being liable at any moment, to be called to their posts by a signal gun from the battery, *ought* to be in high discipline. We endeavour to make them perfect in all that relates to the management of garrison ordnance. When stationed for the protection of foreign vessels, or for the detention of vessels attempting to violate the port, or commercial regulations of the Colony, they are entitled to be paid each man, five cents per the hour.

The Market House, of which a plan was sent home nearly 18 months ago, and a part of the materials at that time collected, after having been suspended from time to time since, is now proceeding with fresh spirit. The work was dropped in 1826, in consequence of a part of the settlers withholding their quota of the money required for its erection, from a disagreement as to its situation. And I did not feel authorized to make so large an appropriation of the public funds, for such a building, as a partial and limited contribution on the part of the people to the work, would require.—Its site is Central Avenue, a little to the Eastward of the centre of the present settled part of the town.

A neat, but small building of two stories has been erected since my last, for a Colonial Dispensary. Hitherto, not only great inconvenience has been the consequence of having no building in which our medicines and hospital stores might be disposed in an orderly manner, but much loss by damage and waste, has been suffered from the want of one. The basement story is of mason-work—the upper, frame—well plastered inside, and painted without. The building will cost about \$270. and be completed in the month of January.

After the first of January it is intended that a Packet Boat, large enough to accommodate 20 passengers with their baggage, will ply every second day between Monrovia and Caldwell, and return on the intermediate days; touching at Stockton Town, and the half way farms, going and returning.—Such an accommodation has become almost indispensable, the intercourse between the settlements, particularly from Caldwell to Monrovia, and from Monrovia to the half way farms, having grown too frequent and large for individuals to provide themselves with the means of conveyance. It is not improbable, that two or three years will produce a demand for Steam-boat Engines in the Colony. A single Boat of about forty tons could, at this moment, be employed with advantage and economy, to ply, one half the year, between Monrovia, and all our factories. The climate is destructive to all machinery intended to work with exactness, unless kept in constant use; and it is only the circumstance of being obliged to lay up a Steam-boat for half of the year, that prevents an immediate application for one.

Friday, December 21, 1827.

Arrived, the U. States' ship, "Ontario," returning home from the Mediterranean, from Gibraltar, the 11th of Nov. Captain Nicholson has kindly offered to take charge of letters. This gentleman has, since his arrival, taken unwearied pains to ascertain from personal inspection, the true state, and I think has qualified himself to judge correctly of the prospects of the settlers. His Ship will probably remain five days at the Cape.

Same day, arrived from *Basle*, by way of England and Sierra Leone, a pioneer of the Swiss Mission, to be established in Liberia. In May last, three Missionaries, Handt, Hegele, and Sessing, all single, were deputed by the Evangelical Society of *Basle*, for Liberia. They arrived in England in June, where, pursuant to instructions, they remained till the 11th of November, when they went on board, at London, of an English ship, bound to Sierra Leone, but were obliged, by stress of weather, to put back into Portsmouth. On the point of sailing from that port, Hegele received a wound on the head, by the falling of a block, which, it was feared, would prove mortal. He was conveyed on shore, and necessarily left to the providence of God, and the care of Christian friends; while the two others, Messrs. *Handt* and *Sessing*, proceeded on their voyage, and arrived at Sierra Leone about the 10th of the present month. On the 12th, the U. S. Ship *Ontario*, leaving Sierra Leone for Liberia, Capt. Nicholson generously offered the Missionaries a passage to this place. It was not possible, however, for a public vessel to bring more than a very small part of the very ample stores with which the munificence of European Christians had furnished these devoted servants of God and man, on their final departure from their native country. Only one could, therefore, accept of Capt. N's overture, and Mr. Sessing has accordingly arrived here by that Ship, on the 21st. Mr. Handt awaits at Sierra Leone, a passage for himself and the Missionary property to this Colony.

But these two gentlemen are only the pioneers of a much larger force, nearly ready to follow. Two more were on the point of leaving Switzerland, when these left England, and may be expected in two months' time. Dr. Blumhardt has written me, in the name of the Directing Committee of the *Basle* Evangelical Institution, a letter full of the most

excellent sentiments, and of paternal and affectionate concern for the young men of the Mission. It is needless to say, that they possess the entire confidence of that judicious and excellent man, and his very respectable associates, and that all temporal views in the formation of this Christian establishment, are utterly discarded.

The gentlemen of the Mission are all liberally educated, and all either possess mechanical trades, or have been accustomed to agriculture. I expect them to remain a few months in our settlements, to learn to stand the climate, and then proceed to some station not upon the sea coast, nor yet, at too great a distance in the interior, and to sit down under the protection of the Colony.

Eight coloured people, natives of the United States, and all capable of great usefulness, and recommended in strong terms by Capt. Nicholson, have been discharged from the "Ontario," and received at the Colony, as probationers for citizenship. They have received in drafts on the United States, and otherwise, nearly three years' wages, which, well managed, will set them all up in business at once.

Capt. N. also deserves, in behalf of the Colony, my very particular acknowledgments. Having, at Gibraltar, notice of the destination of his Ship, he was at the pains to procure for the Colony, from Tunis, a collection of most of the useful garden and other seeds, of African production. These, with other seeds collected in the Archipelago and Asia Minor, he has left in my hands. Our hope is, that they may so far succeed as to seed the Colony permanently with such species of the different vegetables as shall be natural to the climate, which we have in vain attempted to do with the American species.

Capt. N. has, greatly to his own credit and my gratification, evinced not only a favorable disposition, but anxious solicitude for the advancement of your Colony—of which he has given more substantial proofs than by mere professions.

Respectfully, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient servant,

J. ASHMUN.

*Copy of a Letter from Capt. Nicholson, of the U. S. Navy, to
Hon. H. Clay.*

WASHINGTON, MARCH 17, 1826.

Sir,—Having visited the Colony of Liberia, on my return to the United States, from a cruise in the Mediterranean, I cheerfully comply with your request, by presenting to you such views of its present condition and probable growth, as occurred to me in the course of that visit.

The soil in the possession of the Colonists is rich, and will produce a superabundance for the support of the Colony, as well as for external commerce. Sugar, coffee, cotton, rice, and various trees and plants, yielding valuable dyes and medical gums, can be cultivated with success.

The population is now 1200, and is healthy and thriving. The children born in the country are fine looking, and I presume can be raised as

easily as those of the natives. All the Colonists with whom I had any communication, (and with nearly the whole I did communicate in person or by my officers,) expressed their decided wish to remain in their present situation, rather than to return again to the United States. I cannot give you better evidence of the prosperity of the Colony, than by mentioning that eight of my crew, (coloured mechanics) after going on shore two several days, applied for, and received their discharge, in order to remain as permanent settlers. These men had been absent from their country upwards of three years, and had, among them, nearly two thousand dollars in clothes and money. Had they not been thoroughly convinced that their happiness and prosperity would be better promoted by remaining among their free brethren in Liberia, they would not have determined on so momentous a step as quitting the United States, perhaps for ever, where they all had left friends and relatives.

The appearance of all the Colonists, those of Monrovia as well as those of Caldwell, indicated more than contentment. Their manners were those of freemen, who experienced the blessings of liberty, and appreciated the boon. Many of them had, by trade, accumulated a competency, if the possession of from three to five thousand dollars may be called so. As a proof of the growing importance of the commerce of the country, more than 100 hogsheads of tobacco had been used during the last year and the demand was increasing. Ivory and camwood are now the prominent articles received in exchange for foreign imports; other dyewoods, and many medicinal gums and roots will be hereafter brought in, as they are already known to exist in the interior.

I take this occasion to suggest the propriety of permitting any of the Colonists to purchase an additional number of acres of land from the Agent. By permitting this, the more enterprising will be enabled to turn their attention to the culture of the coffee-tree, which grows spontaneously in the vicinity of Monrovia. In fact, the soil will produce every thing which a tropical climate will allow to arrive at maturity.

From the good order and military discipline which appear to prevail among the Colonists, I am induced to believe they could easily repel any native force. They have arms, and having associated themselves in volunteer companies, have acquired the knowledge of using them with effect against any probable force which might be brought to bear upon them, by undisciplined and scattered tribes in their vicinity. It is true, they have no harbors for large vessels, as all their rivers are obstructed by bars. This is not of much consequence to their coasting trade, as they have many harbors and inlets, which are accessible to small vessels. Large vessels have also one advantage, that most of the heavy winds are off the coast, which gives them a lee and a smooth sea. Off Cape Mesurado, there is a good anchorage, and on the pitch of the Cape they have planted a battery, which will protect any vessel that may need it, from piratical depredations.

I would respectfully suggest, for your consideration, the propriety of making the principal Agent of the Colony a "Commercial Agent," as cases have occurred on the coast, where such an appointment might have proved the means of rescuing American property from the hands of foreigners, who have maintained possession of it in consequence of there being no legalized American Agent on the coast.

The importance of this Colony, as regards the native tribes of the

coast, is in my estimation, great. They already begin to perceive that it is civilization and the blessings of religion, which give superiority to man over his fellow man. They had supposed it was the white skin; but now they see in their neighbourhood, men of their own colour enjoying all those advantages hitherto deemed peculiar to the former. This has elicited a spirit of inquiry which must tend to their benefit. The philanthropist may anticipate the day when our language and religion will spread over this now benighted land. The slave trade will cease, as the Colony progresses and extends its settlements. The very spot where now exists a free people, was a depot for the reception of manacled slaves. This fact alone is entitled to consideration, and ought to arouse the zeal of the friends of humanity every where.

Our large cities complain of the number of free blacks, who have by their petty crimes, filled their penitentiaries. Would not the Colony be benefited by the labour of these men, and the community relieved by their transportation? I certainly think the Colony is sufficiently strong both morally and physically, to prevent any injury from their admission. I do not pretend to point out the mode or character in which they ought to be received. This I leave to those who are more able to judge on the subject. I see that the Colony is now in want of numbers, to clear and cultivate a country which will amply repay them for their labour.

I take leave to mention, that the climate is much like that of all similar latitudes; and as the land is rich, and most of it still is woods, we must expect that bilious fevers will sometimes prevail; but I do not think it more unhealthy, to the coloured people, than our extreme Southern coast; and as the soil of Liberia becomes cleared and cultivated, I have no doubt it will be found as healthy as any other Southern latitude. It was, I believe, never intended that the white man should inhabit this region of the globe; at least we know that the diseases of the climate are more fatal to him than the man of colour. They luxuriate in the intense heat, while a white man sinks under its exhausting influence. I confess, sir, that since I have visited this Colony, I felt a strong interest in its prosperity, and hope that it will thrive under the auspices of a society, among whom are some of our most distinguished citizens.

If what I have communicated shall prove instrumental, in the slightest degree, to sustain you in the cause of humanity, and of this degraded race, I shall rejoice that my duty called me to witness the growing prosperity of the Colony of Liberia.

With sentiments of high respect, I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. NICHOLSON,

Late Commander of the U. S. Ship Ontario.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY,

Vice President of the Colonization Society.

APPROBATORY RESOLUTIONS.

Resolutions commending the cause of the American Colonization Society to the public, have been adopted by nearly every ecclesiastical body in the country. Those adopted by the Convention and General Association of this State show what is the deliberate and officially expressed opinion of the Congregational Ministers of Connecticut. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, several of the diocesan Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal church, the Baptist General Convention, and many of the Methodist Conferences, it is believed, have adopted similar resolutions.

Connecticut Convention.

At an annual meeting of the Convention of the Congregational Clergy of Connecticut, at Hartford, May 2. 1827:

Resolved, That this Convention does cheerfully recommend the American Colonization Society to the charitable consideration of the Congregational Churches in this State, as an institution worthy of the patronage of individuals, of the States, and of the Nation.

Resolved, That this Convention cordially approves of the measure proposed by several ecclesiastical bodies in our country, of making collections in the churches for the Colonization Society, on the Sabbath immediately preceding or succeeding the Fourth of July; and that they recommend such annual collections to the churches and congregations in this State.

Passed in Convention.

THOMAS ROBBINS, *Secretary*.

Connecticut General Association.

Resolved, That the Association do highly approve of the object and exertions of the Colonization Society, and do recommend to the Ministers in our connection in this State, to use their influence, in that way that they shall judge proper, to aid the Society.

State of Connecticut.

The following Resolution was adopted by the Legislature of this State in 1824.

“Resolved, That the existence of slavery in the United States is a great national evil, and that the People and the States ought to participate in the burdens and duties of removing it by all just and prudent measures, which may be adopted *with a due regard to their internal peace and mutual harmony*; and that a system of colonization, under the patronage of the General Government, may reasonably be deemed conducive to so desirable an object.”

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1. This Society shall be denominated, "The Colonization Society of the State of Connecticut."

ART. 2. This Society shall be Auxiliary to the American Colonization Society, whose object is to promote and execute a plan for Colonizing (with their consent) the free people of colour residing in our country, in Africa, or such other places as Congress shall deem most expedient.

ART. 3. An annual subscription of \$1 shall constitute an individual a member of this Society; and a donation at one time of not less than \$10, a member for life.

ART. 4. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who, with nine others shall constitute a Board of Managers, any three of whom shall make a quorum, and these officers shall be elected annually at the stated meetings of the Society; and in case of the death or resignation of any of these officers their places, may be supplied by the Board.

ART. 5. The Board of Managers shall hold an annual meeting on Thursday next following the annual meeting of the Society, at 2 P. M. and at such other times as they may by adjournment appoint; and the Secretary shall request a meeting whenever any two members shall concur with him in opinion that such meeting is desirable.

ART. 6. The Society shall hold its annual meetings in Hartford and New-Haven, alternately, on Tuesday evening preceding the day of General Election, of which the Secretary shall give previous public notice; and at such meeting the Board of Managers shall present a Report of their proceedings.

ART. 7. Any person who is or has been a member for life of any Society in this State, formed for this object, shall thereby be a member for life of this Society.





